


EH-0141 US

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Thomas Lizzi

Date: November 29, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of: Liu et al.)	
)	GROUP ART UNIT: Unknown
Serial No.: 10/580,932)	
Filed: May 30, 2006)	Examiner: Unknown
For: Processes for Sintering Aluminum)	
and Aluminum Alloys)	Date: November 29, 2006

Commissioner For Patents
P.O.Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.51, 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, the art that is identified on the attached form PTO/SB/08B is being disclosed with regard to the above-identified application. Copies of all non-U.S. patents and non-U.S. patent application publications are enclosed herewith in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98. No significance is meant to be given to any markings that may be found on the enclosed copies. The art that is identified is not necessarily analogous art. Applicants hereby request the Examiner to review and make an independent evaluation of the art. Applicants also hereby respectfully request that an initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08B be returned to the undersigned.

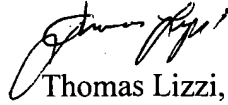
Applicant believes from a consultation of the USPTO Private Pair system that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within the time period specified in 37 C.F.R.1.97 (b), and therefore believes that no filing fee is required. In the case that Applicant is mistaken in this belief, Applicant requests the opportunity to refile the instant document with the appropriate fee without any loss of right.

Two foreign language patent applications are included among the disclosed art. One is Japan Patent Application No. 06-057363, which was published on March 1, 1994. It is believed that the relevance of this document is that it teaches the sintering aluminum magnesium alloy powder in a nitrogen atmosphere that has a partial pressure of 0.01 atmosphere (1.01 kpa) or less water vapor. The powder, however, has been cold compacted prior to sintering, in contradistinction to the claimed invention of the instant application. A translation of the abstract is provided.

The other foreign language patent application is Japan Patent Application No. 06-033164, which was published on March 1, 1994. It is believed that the relevance of this document is that it teaches the heating of an aluminum powder that contains magnesium in a nitrogen atmosphere in the temperature range of 500 °C to 600 °C. However, the powder is hot compacted. A translation of the abstract is provided as is a machine-language translation of the entire document.

Applicants believe that its invention as described and claimed in the instant application is neither taught nor suggested by the disclosed art. Accordingly, Applicant's invention is believed to be patentable over this art.

Respectfully submitted,



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November 29, 2006

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/580,932
Filing Date	May 30, 2006
First Named Inventor	Jianxin Liu
Art Unit	Unknown
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	EH-0141

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5,460,755	10-24-1995	Hayashi et al.	
		US- 5,525,292	06-11-1992	Nakao et al.	
		US- 6,036,777	03-14-2000	Sachs	
		US- 6,585,930 B2	07-01-2003	Liu et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP 06-033164	02-08-1994	Toyota Central Res & Dev	Abstract	
		JP 06-057363	03-01-1994	Sumitomo Electric Ind Ltd	Abstract	

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Complete if Known			
		Application Number	10/580,932		
		Filing Date	May 30, 2006		
		First Named Inventor	Jianxin Liu		
		Art Unit	Unknown		
		Examiner Name	Unknown		
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	EH-0141

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		MYERS ET AL., "Rapid Prototyping of Aluminum by Selective Laser Sintering," MPIF Proceedings, April 8-10, 2002, San Antonio TX, pp. 233-241	
		CORSO ET AL., "Sintering Procedures for Aluminium P/M Parts and Metallographic Examination During the Process," Powder Metallurgy, 1976, No. 3, 171-176	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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